

A free and independent press, comprising various points of view and of different political stripes, is essential for the health of an open, democratic society. When the means of information are concentrated in the hands of a few, the free flow of information is jeopardized. As huge conglomerates, with ties to both major political parties and by definition owned by those in the high-upper classes, gobble up more and more newspapers and television stations, the likelihood that news contrary to the interests of the government or the wealthy class will be presented is greatly diminished, as are incentives for investigative journalism of the type engaged in by Woodward and Bernstein. A healthy democracy, with a government that is by, of and for its people, should have no thought of concentrating the means of information in the hands of the few, establishing, in effect, an oligarchy of information; that is the sort of thing totalitarian governments of the extreme left and the extreme right do.